

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

MARVEL
COMICS



\$2.75 US
\$3.25 CAN
50 MAY
£1.45 UK

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

EXCALIBUR™

**GIANT-SIZED
SPECTACULAR!**



30TH
ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992



**THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN**



ALAN DAVIS
& MARK FIORIO -
BASED ON AN IDEA BY
SVEN LARSEN

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE TELEPORTING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS. THEY HAVE Banded TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...

EXCALIBUR!

ALAN DAVIS WRITER/PENCILER MARK FARMER INKER
JOE ROSAS COLORIST MICHAEL HEISLER LETTERER
TERRY KAWANAGH EDITOR TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF
EXCALIBUR CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT AND ALAN DAVIS

WINNER LOSES ALL

THE CAVERNOUS BASEMENT
BENEATH EXCALIBUR'S LIGHT-
HOUSE HEADQUARTERS ON THE
WEST COAST OF ENGLAND...

RACHEL, STAY
CALM. DO NOT LET
NECRON GOAD
YOU.

HE CANNOT
ACCESS THE PHOENIX
FORCE WHILE YOU KEEP
IT IN A DORMANT
STATE.

YOUR CHOICE IS
SIMPLE, RACHEL. SUMMERS,
RELINQUISH THE PHOENIX
TO ME--

--OR WATCH YOUR
FRIENDS DIE AS I COMPRESS
THE MULTIVERSE OF ALTERNATE
EARTHS INTO A SINGULARITY.

I KNOW,
KURT...BUT I
CAN'T LET YOU
ALL DIE.

EXCALIBUR - Vol. 1, No. 50, May, 1992. (ISSN 1045-1366) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1992 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$2.75 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$21.00; foreign \$33.00; and Canadian subscribers must add \$6.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127322632. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. EXCALIBUR (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO EXCALIBUR, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018. Printed in Canada.



ENOUGH TALK.

IF I AM TO DIE...

...I WILL DIE FIGHTING.



EEFAKKK!

AND I WILL NOT DIE EASILY.

THE MYSTICAL SWORDS OF ZZ'R'IA ARE A POTENT ANTI-DOTE TO NECROMIS EVIL...

...IT IS A PITY THIS WAS ONLY A PSYCHIC PROJECTION.



YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE INEVITABLE, KYLIN.

IT'S MY FAULT NECROM ACQUIRED THE POTENTIAL TO CONTROL THE PHOENIX FORCE--AND NOW I'M GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT HIM FOR IT.



NO RACHEL! IF, AS NECROM CLAIMS, HE IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO WARP REALITY--WHY HAS HE NOT MADE A DIRECT ATTACK?

I THINK HE IS BLUFFING.



THEN WHAT'S CAUSED THE SUDDEN INCREASE IN CROSS-TIME MIRAGES THAT ARE ALL AROUND US?

WE HAVE LIVED WITH THESE FLEETING APPARITIONS SINCE WE MOVED INTO THE LIGHTHOUSE.

IF THEY DO SIGNAL A CONVERGENCE OF REALITIES, IT BEGAN A LONG TIME AGO. WE HAVE ONLY NECROM'S WORD THAT HE IS THE CAUSE.







BOTH ARE SAFE. THEY APPEARED TO VANISH BECAUSE THEY LEFT THE AREA OF LOCALIZED STABILITY...

...CREATED BY THE FOURTH-DIMENSIONAL PULSE I'VE BEEN MONITORING.

IT'S MORE FOCUSED NOW.

I CAN CONFIRM WIDGET IS NOT RESPONSIBLE...



...RACHEL IS GENERATING THE TEMPORAL SHIELD.

THAT CAN'T BE. I'M A TELEPATH. EVEN WITH THE PHOENIX FORCE, I CAN'T MANIPULATE TIME.



THAT'S NOT TRUE, RACHEL.

WHILE YOU WERE IN THE FUTURE, YOU EXCHANGED MY CONSCIOUSNESS WITH AN OLDER VERSION OF MYSELF.

AND, SOMEHOW, YOU MOVED YOURSELF BACK THROUGH TIME.



OF COURSE... I REMEMBER NOW.

WE TRIED TO CHANGE OUR PRESENT BY ALTERING THE PAST, BUT WE FAILED.

PROJECT NIMROD HAD PERFECTED A MORE EFFICIENT SENTINEL.

MUTANTKIND WAS DOOMED.

THE X-MEN AND ALL THE OTHERS WERE DEAD. IT WAS DOWN TO ME AND KATE -- THE ADULT FUTURE OF THE FUTURE.

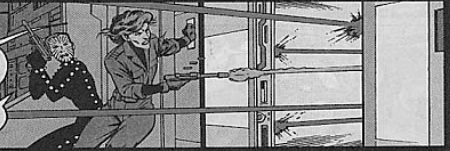


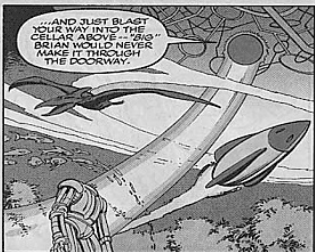
"WE BLUFFED OUR WAY INTO THE TOP SECRET CYBERBOTICS COMPLEX."

"WE REACHED THE PROJECT NERVE CENTER BEFORE OUR COVER WAS BLOWN..."

ONCE THE DOOR SEALS, RACHEL TELEKINETICALLY SCRAMBLE THE LOCKS. THEY'LL HAVE TO BLAST THEIR WAY INSIDE.

THEN WHAT?! THIS LAB'S SHIELDED AGAINST YOUR PHASING POWER--







...OTHERS MOVE TO JOIN THE FRAY.

THE LIGHTHOUSE IS STRAIGHT AHEAD AND--GOOD LORD! THE SKY...

IT HAS BEGUN.

YOU CAN'T MEAN THE END OF THE WORLD, MISS WITHER-SPOON?

IT IS A POSSIBILITY, COMMANDER THOMAS. FORCES BEYOND MORTAL COMPREHENSION ARE AT WORK HERE...

...FORCES THAT OBSCURE THE FUTURE FROM MY HUMBLE CLAIRVOYANCE.

THAT'S NECROM BENEATH US NOW. HOLD THIS POSITION, HARRIS.

SIR?



MICROMAX, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT SUPER HEROES ARE SUPPOSED TO DO--



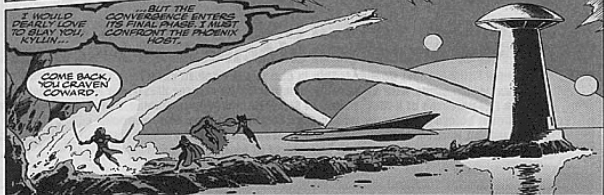
MICROMAX IS A MUTANT WITH THE ABILITY TO CONTROL HIS SIZE AND DENSITY.

AS HE FALLS HE INCREASES BOTH...

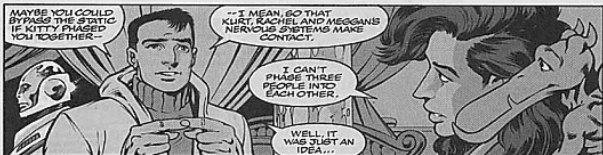
--JUMP ON THE BAD GUY.

...UNTIL HE ACHIEVES THE MASS AND VELOCITY OF A SMALL METEOR.











--AND, THE ENERGY YOU CONTAIN, BRIAN.

YOU ARE THE POWERHOUSE.

BUT WHY? TO DO WHAT?



TO HALT THE CONVERGENCE, *HEIN REILING*. YOU'LL LINGER-- STAND WHEN WE MERGE.

YES, THE ENERGY MATRIX IS THE CAUSE--



--IT'S COLLAPSING--

--AND AS IT SHRINKS, IT IS DRAWING ALL THE PLANES OF REALITY TOGETHER.

BRIAN...ER... GUYS, THIS IS ALL TOO NEAT. IT CAN'T BE COINCIDENCE.



I KNOW. WE ARE BEING MANIPULATED...

...BUT THE CONVERGENCE IS SPREADING WITH GEOMETRIC PROGRESSION.

WE CAN STOP IT IF WE ACT IMMEDIATELY.

WHAT ABOUT NECROM?

NECROM HAS ENTERED THE LIGHTHOUSE THROUGH THE OBSERVATION DOME.



HE'S MINE!



RACHEL'S ABILITY TO GENERATE A FOURTH-DIMENSIONAL PULSE WILL ALLOW US TO ADJUST OUR TEMPORAL FREQUENCY AND RISE THROUGH THE MULTIVERSE.

GOODBYE, ALISTAIRE.

WAIT...
...
...



WHERE ARE EXCALIBUR, ALISTAIRE?

I REALLY DON'T KNOW. THIS IS ALL WAY OVER MY HEAD.



WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING
THE HOW OR WHY... LIKE A
MUSICIAN COMPOSING A
TUNE BY FEELING AND
INSTINCT...

--EXCALIBUR REDIRECT
POWER ABSORBED FROM
THE MATRIX BACK INTO
THE ENERGY LATTICE...

...STIMULATING THE
CONTRACTING FILAMENTS
TO A NEW GROWTH ON
EVERY PLANE.

AND, ALTHOUGH ALL
THE ALTERNATE EARTHS
IN THE MULTIVERSE
EXIST IN THE SAME
PHYSICAL SPACE--

--SEPARATED ONLY BY
TINY VARIATIONS OF THEIR
VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCY--

--EXCALIBUR MOVE SO RAPIDLY
FROM ONE PLANE TO THE NEXT,
THEY APPEAR TO BE PASSING
THROUGH A TUBE THAT STRETCHES
FROM THEIR EARTH--EARTH 616--
TO THE FABLED REALM OF...

...OTHERWORLD...

ROMA'S STARLIGHT
CITADEL...

...WHEREIN MERLYN
HAS RETURNED--FIVE
YEARS AFTER HIS
OWN FUNERAL--

--TO REVEAL THAT HIS
DEATH WAS MERELY A
PLOY IN A COSMIC
GAME.

WHY DID YOU
DECEIVE ME, FATHER?
COULD YOU NOT TRUST
ME?

TRUST WAS NOT
THE ISSUE, ROMA.
IT WAS ESSENTIAL
THAT NECROM
SHOULD BELIEVE
I WAS DEAD.



WHO IS
NECROM?

THE
GORCERER
SUPREME OF
MY RACE...

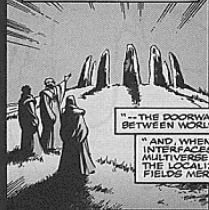
...I WAS
HIS STUDENT.
SO TOO WAS
THE ORIGINAL
FERON...

--THE FORBEAR
OF THAT HYBRID
UPSTART WHO NOW
BEARS HIS NAME.



"IT WAS NECROM WHO
REVEALED TO US THE ENERGY
CREATED BY EXCHANGE OF
EXOTIC PARTICLES AT EVERY
DIMENSIONAL INTERFACE--

"...TO CREATE AN
ENERGY MATRIX OF
AWESOME POWER.
BUT THE ALIGNMENTS
WERE TOO BRIEF AND
INFREQUENT TO BE
HARNESSED.



"--THE DOORWAYS
BETWEEN WORLDS.

"AND, WHEN A SERIES OF
INTERFACES ACROSS THE
MULTIVERSE WERE ALIGNED,
THE LOCALIZED ENERGY
FIELDS MERGED...



"STILL, NECROM
COVETED THE POWER
AND HE WAS NOT TO
BE DENIED."

"SO IT WAS, WE TRAVELED TO EARTH 616--THE PRIME EARTH--TO THE LOCATION OF AN IMMINENT ALIGNMENT."

"THE INTERFACE WAS MARKED WITH A TOWER--ERECTED TO AN ELDER GOD BY A RACE THAT WAS ANCIENT WHEN ATLANTIS WAS YOUNG."

"FERON PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN NECROM'S SCHEME."

"DECADES OF MEDITATION AND RIGID ASCETICISM HAD ALLOWED HIM TO COMMUNICATE WITH A CELESTIAL ELEMENTAL--"

"--NOW KNOWN AS THE PHOENIX."

"AT THE MOMENT OF ALIGNMENT, FERON CALLED ON THE PHOENIX AVATAR TO PROTECT THE ESSENCE OF THE TOWER THROUGH THE MULTIVERSE..."

"...SO THAT IT EXISTED ON EVERY PLANE OF REALITY SIMULTANEOUSLY--"

"--LIKE A COSMIC LYNCHPIN THREADED THROUGH THE MULTIVERSE."

"BUT NECROM HAD DECEIVED US: THE CREATION OF AN ENERGY MATRIX WAS MERELY THE FIRST PHASE IN A GAMBIT..."

"...TO COMPRESS THE ALTERNATE EARTHS INTO A SINGULARITY."

"...HAD HE NOT MADE ONE FATAL MISCALCULATION, FERON--SUSTAINED BY THE PHOENIX--MIGHTY NECROM'S MIGHTY WILL."

"AS THEY FOUGHT, I LEAPT INTO THE SEETHING CAULDRON OF THE ENERGY MATRIX..."

"...AND WAS SWEEPED ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE AS I STRUGGLED TO TAME ITS FURY."

"THE ENERGY RELEASED BY THIS DESTRUCTIVE INSANITY WOULD HAVE ENDOWED NECROM WITH THE POWER OF A GOD..."

"NECROM COULD HAVE EASILY KILLED GENTLE FERON, BUT INSTEAD TORE OUT THE PORTION OF PHOENIX FORCE THAT BONDED HIS STUDENT TO THE AVATAR..."

"...ENSURING BOTH WOULD ENDURE GREAT SUFFERING."



"IN AGONIZED CONFUSION, THE PHOENIX FLED TO THE STARS."

"NECROM BOUND THE STOLEN PHOENIX FORCE WITH A PORTION OF HIS OWN LIFE ESSENCE AND LEFT IT TO INCUBATE IN A CORPSE."

"THE CREATION OF THE ANTI-PHOENIX WAS NECROM'S FIRST PLOY IN HIS CURRENT GAMBIT. THEN HE VANISHED INTO THE MULTI-VERSE."

"FERON SPENT THE REST OF HIS LIFE AWAITING THE RISE OF THE ANTI-PHOENIX, HOPING TO ATONE FOR THE PAIN HE HAD CAUSED THE PHOENIX."



"HIS FINAL ACT WAS TO PLACE HIS POWER IN THE EARTH TO BE CLAIMED BY HIS HEIR."

"IN THE MEANTIME, I HAD MASTERED THE ENERGY MATRIX, AND ESTABLISHED OTHERWORLD."

"BUT ALWAYS, NECROM ELUDED ME, SO I CREATED THE CORPS TO PATROL THE MULTIVERSE..."



"...AND I BEGAN A COUNTER-GAMBIT."

"WAS ALL THIS DECEPTION REALLY NECESSARY? COULD YOU NOT HAVE REPAIRED THE ENERGY MATRIX?"



"TO DO SO WOULD HAVE EXPOSED ME TO AN ATTACK FROM NECROM. I HAD TO GUARD MYSELF... HE IS A POWERFUL OPPONENT."



"SO YOU HID, FEIGNING DEATH WHILE OTHERS DEFENDED YOUR EMPIRE."

"SHOULD I CONCERN MYSELF WITH THE FATE OF A FEW MORTALS?"

"I AM MERLYN."

"AND NOW THE GAME IS NEARLY DONE."

"THE THREAT THAT NECROM POSED IS ALMOST NEUTRALIZED."

"I HAVE PROVED MY SUPREMACY."

EARTH 616...

...WHERE THE EXCALIBUR
LIGHTHOUSE STANDS AND
A SHIFTING LANDSCAPE
OF ALIEN MIRAGES.

BY
ELYON'S
HORNED
SPECS--

--THESE
CROSSTIME
PHANTOMS ARE
EVERYWHERE.

NECROM
IS HIDING
IN THIS
INSANITY...
...I CAN
SENSE HE
IS NEAR.

KYLUN...

SA'TNEEN?!

IT
CAN'T BE!
YOU
DIED!

I
UNDERSTAND
YOUR HESITATION,
MY LOVE, BUT I
AM REAL.

SEE, I
CAN TOUCH
YOU.

FORGIVE
ME, SA'TNEEN.
I LOVE YOU
MORE THAN
LIFE ITSELF...

NO, MY LOVE
THOUGH SORELY
WOUNDED, MY
MYSTICAL PROWESS
DID RESTORE MY
VIGOR--

--AM I NOT
THE WITCH QUEEN
OF EE'RATH...?



...AND I WILL NOT PERMIT YOUR MORTAL REMAINS TO BE POSSESSED...

...BY THIS DISEASED VERMIN!

YOU CAN'T BE AS POWERFUL AS YOU CLAIM, NECROM, OR YOU WOULDN'T NEED TO RESORT TO SUCH A DESPERATE PLOY.

I THINK NOT. YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH FERON AND MICROMAX LEFT YOU DRAINED.

YOU HOPED TO BLUFF YOUR WAY PAST ME. YOU FEAR ZZ'RIA'S BLADES.

I HAVE STRENGTH ENOUGH TO KILL YOU.

CURSE YOU, I WILL SOON POSSESS THE PHOENIX. ITS HUMAN HOST MUST RELEASE IT IF THE CONVERGENCE IS TO BE HALTED.

BUT IT HAS STOPPED. LOOK AROUND YOU--THE CROSS-TIME PHANTOMS ARE NO MORE.

YET, IT HAS RISEN THROUGH THE MULTIVERSE...

...AND I MUST FOLLOW.

BARELY A DAY AGO-- IN ANOTHER WORLD, OF A DIFFERENT TIME -- KYLLIN LEFT HIS LOVER'S BODY UNGUARDED, TO PURSUE HER KILLER.

BUT, NOW THAT NECROM IS BEYOND HIS REACH...

FIGHT ME.

NO, IT CANNOT BE. THE PHOENIX IS STILL DORMANT.

NO! FIGHT ME... FIGHT ME!

...HE CAN NO LONGER SURPRESS HIS GRIEF.



YOU'VE GOT IT, NECROM-- HE KNOWS HE'D COME TO THIS.

SORRY, KURT YOU WON'T STOP ME WITH A NERVE PINCH-- MY TELEPATHY AND TELEKINESIS ARE BACK TO FULL STRENGTH.

BUT THANKS FOR CARING ENOUGH TO TRY.

PLEASE, RACHEL, THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY.

I TRULY WISH THERE WAS, BUT NECROM IS DESPERATE. HE'S HURT, DYING-- HE HAS NOTHING TO LOSE.

AND, HE'S AN ENERGY VAMPIRE. HE NEED ONLY MAKE PHYSICAL CONTACT TO KILL. HE'S BOUND TO GET AT LEAST ONE OF YOU-- I COULDN'T LIVE WITH THAT.

BUT, RACHEL, YOUR MEMORY... YOU MIGHT DESTROY IT FOREVER.

YOUR FUTURE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY PAST, KIDDO.

NO, RACHEL!

I'M PHOENIX.

I ACCEPTED THE POWER AND NOW IT'S TIME TO PROVE I'M WORTHY OF IT.

WITH A SINGLE THOUGHT, RACHEL IS TRANSFORMED...

--AS THE COSMIC AVATAR SHE HOSTS ERUPTS FROM ITS PSYCHIC CONFINES.

IN THE SAME BEARING INSTANT, SHE BIDS HER FRIENDS A TELEPATHIC FAREWELL...

...SO THEY SHARE THE MOMENT OF GLORIOUS ELATION...

...THAT IS ENGULFED BY A SACK EMPTINESS AS THE GURGING CELESTIAL FORCE SHATTERS THEIR TEAMMATE'S MEMORY INTO A MIST OF SPLINTERED REMINISCENCE.

BUT RACHEL FORGES HER LOSS.

HER MIND IS FOCUSED ON THE PRESENT...

...ON THE BATTLE
SHE MUST FIGHT.

OVERCONFIDENT
FOOL.

YOUR MEAGER
ABILITY MAY IMPRESS
OTHER MORTALS, BUT
IN THE INSTANT YOU
RELEASED THE PHOENIX,
YOU ALLOWED ME TO
DRAW ON ITS
POTENTIAL...

--AND ALTHOUGH
I POSSESS ONLY A
FRACTION OF ITS
ESSENCE...

...I KNOW
HOW TO UTILIZE
IT.

UTILIZE
THIS!

COME,
BOTHERSOME
INSECTS.

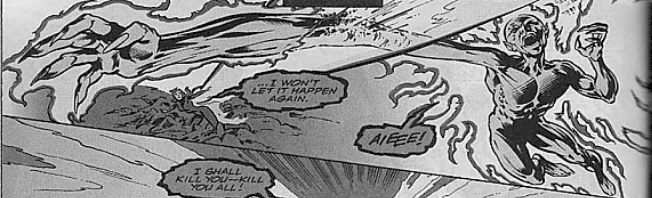
IF YOU
ARE SO EAGER
FOR DEATH...

...I WILL
GRANT YOU
A SWIFT
ENDING.

NO! I WATCHED
MY FRIENDS DIE IN
THE FUTURE...

ERK!

WAK



...SHE CANNOT AVOID
THE IRRESISTIBLE JET
OF MACHINA THAT NECROM
DIRECTS AT HER.

AND THOUGH SHE WAITS
SECONDS BEFORE THE
PLANET'S SURFACE IS
VAPORIZED...

...YET, SOME OTHER
SENSE ALERTS HER
TO DANGER.

IF THE
IMPACT DOESN'T
KILL HIM...

...AND I DON'T
PLAN TO LET HIM
RECOVER.

...NECROM
IS COMPLETELY
DISORIENTED.

THERE IS NO
SOUND OR
MOVEMENT...

CONFIDENT OF HER
VICTORY, RACHEL
SMOORS DOWN
LESS VOID
THROUGH THE AIR-

...A
THOUSAND TONS
OF CANNIBALIZED
CITY WILL.

EITHER WAY
IT'S GIVEN ME AN
ADVANTAGE...



SOMETHING
BROKEN INSIDE--
I CAN TASTE
BLOOD.

NECROM
NEARLY HAD
ME THEN, I'VE
UNDERESTIMAT-
ED HIM.

HE'S COMING
FAST, HE THINKS
I'M BEATEN.

I'LL LET HIM
BELIEVE I'M
RUNNING TO HIDE
AMONG THESE
ASTEROIDS.

THEY'RE
FALLING TOWARD
THE GAS GIANT AT
HIGH VELOCITIES.

IF I CAN
TELEKINETICALLY
REDIRECT THEIR
MOMENTUM...

...SO THAT
THEY SWERVE
AND...

...BINGO!

IS THAT
YOUR BEST EFFORT,
GIRL??

YOU WIELD
THE PHOENIX LIKE
A CLUMSY TOOL.

BEHOLD!

OH MY
LORD!

LINH!
SOMETHING
PULLING
ME...

...I'M GETTING
HEAVIER.

THE GAS
GIANT...

...ITS GRAVITY
INCREASING...

...IT'S
SHRINKING...

...GOT
TO PULL
CLEAR.

MOONS...

...HE THREW
MOONS AT ME.

LINH!

NECROM
IGNITED THE
PLANET...

TURNED
IT INTO A
SUN...

JUST TO
INCINERATE
ME.



YOU
CANNOT KEEP
RUNNING,
GIRL.

HAVE I NOT
SHOWN YOU THAT
YOU CANNOT STAND
AGAINST MY
SUPERIOR SKILLS?

I'M A QUICK
LEARNER. EAT
SOLAR FLARE, O
MIGHTY
TEACHER.

ARRRGH!

YOU
DARE TO
MOCK ME...

...THEN I
WILL TEACH
YOU WHAT
REAL POWER
CAN DO!

NECROM KEEPS
ESCALATING HIS
ATTACK. HE'S
DEVASTATED THIS
ENTIRE SOLAR
SYSTEM.

I CAN'T
CHANNEL
THAT LEVEL
OF POWER.

AND I
DON'T THINK
NECROM CAN
EITHER.

...AND I'M
THROUGH
PLAYING BY
HIS RULES.

LIKE A BEAST
SENSING DEFEAT,
YOU RESORT TO A
RUTHLESS PHYSICAL
ATTACK--AND IN SO
DOING, YOU DELIVER
THE PHOENIX TO
ME.

ALL I NEED DO
IS DRAIN YOUR LIFE
FORCE AND THE
PHOENIX ESSENCE
THAT BONDS TO IT
WILL FOLLOW.

BARBARIAN,
YOUR PRIMITIVE
INSTINCTS
BETRAY YOU.

THAT'S WHAT
I COUNTED ON,
SUCKER.

OR HE WOULD
MAKE A DIRECT
ATTACK, INSTEAD
OF STRIKING AT
ME THROUGH OUR
SURROUNDINGS.

HE'S STILL
MANIPULATING
ME...

IT WAS
STALEMATE...

...I COULDN'T
BEAT YOU
WITHOUT
RESORTING TO
YOUR
TACTICS...

...WE WOULD'VE
DESTROYED THE
UNIVERSE.

LIK...LIK...
WHA...

...WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE...TO
ME?

THE PHOENIX
ISN'T POWER IN
ITSELF...

...BUT IT HAS
THE ABILITY TO
TAP INTO THE
ELEMENTAL
FORCES OF THE
UNIVERSE...

...AND THEY'RE
NEAR INFINITE.

UK...
UK...
UK...

I KNEW YOU
WANTED IT ALL,
SO I WILLED THE
PHOENIX TO
GIVE IT TO
YOU.

UK...
UK...
UK...

HOW MUCH
DO YOU THINK
YOU CAN ABSORB
BEFORE...

"...YOU
BURST?"

NECROM NEVER
"HEARS" RACHEL'S
FINAL WORDS.

HE HAS ALREADY
EXPLODED INTO A
CLOUD OF DISCORPORATE
ATOMS THAT ARE
BLOWN INTO INFINITY...

...AS THE PHOENIX--REUNITED
WITH ITS STOLEN ESSENCE--
FLARES IN MAJESTIC
CELEBRATION.

WHEN THE DAZZLING
BRILLIANCE FADES,
A NEW HAZE ONLY
SPREADS THROUGH THE
TORTURED ETHER...

...AND NOTHING REMAINS
TO MARK THE BPC BATTLE,
EXCEPT THE DEBRIS OF A
SHATTERED SOLAR SYSTEM...

...AND A FRAIL
HUMAN FORM.

FOR LONG
MINUTES IT HANGS
LIFELESSLY IN
THE COLD, DARK
VACUUM.

THEN, WITH
A SEARING
FLASH, IT
VANISHES...

...TO REAPPEAR ON
OTHERWORLD.

LOOK!

IT'S
RACHEL.

WHAT'S HAPPENED
TO HER? WHY IS SHE
IN THE ORIGINAL
PHOENIX
COSTUME?

NO
OBVIOUS
PHYSICAL
DAMAGE.

BREATHING
IS SHALLOW.

PULSE
IS VERY
FAINT.

NO
PUPILARY
RESPONSE...

...SHE
APPEARS
TO BE
COMATOSE.

...BUT I AM AFRAID
I HAVE NO KNOW-
LEDGE OF WHAT
AILS HER. THE
PHOENIX GUARDS
HER FROM MY
PERCEPTIONS.

I HAVE
RETURNED
YOUR FRIEND
TO YOU...

ROMA! WHAT
THE DEVIL IS
GOING ON?

NECROM IS DEAD.
THE POWER PLAY IS
OVER.

WITH JUST
ONE CASUALTY. A
MOST EXCELLENT
CONCLUSION...

...I HAD ANTICIPATED THAT NECROM WOULD KILL AT LEAST TWO OF YOUR NUMBER.

IT SURPRISED ME THAT RACHEL SUMMERS SHOULD SACRIFICE SO MUCH IN THE NAME OF FRIENDSHIP.

STILL EVERY GAMBIT HAS ITS ROGUE ELEMENT.

MERLYN! YOU ARE ALIVE.



MOST ASSURELY, MY DEATH WAS A PLAY--AN IMMORTAL DOES NOT SIMPLY DIE OF OLD AGE.

I REQUIRED A PERIOD OF... ANONYMITY.

MY DAUGHTER WAS A MORE THAN ADEQUATE CARETAKER IN MY ABSENCE.

HOW GENTLY SHE NURTURED THE FORMATION OF YOUR GROUP: MOVING YOUR CRUDE POWERS WITH SUBTLE PERSUASIONS--SUCH AS THE CROSS-TIME CAPER.

DURING THAT AFFAIR, YOU WERE ALL ACCLIMATIZED TO THE RAVAGES OF UNPROTECTED CROSS-TIME TRANSIT...



...WHILE RACHEL WAS UNCONSCIOUSLY EXERCISING HER TEMPORAL CONTROL.

A CLEVER PLOY, CAPABLY EXECUTED, BUT NOT FULLY SUCCESSFUL.

WHICH IS WHY I WAS REQUIRED TO DO A SMALL AMOUNT OF FINE TUNING.



SO IT WAS YOU WHO MASQUERADED AS MYRD.

YES, THE "POSSESSION" INCIDENT WAS NECESSARY TO PREPARE YOUR PSYCHES FOR THEIR RECENT MERGER.



THE EVENT WAS PURE FANTASY--PLAYED OUT IN THE SUBCONSCIOUS MIND OF ALISTAIR STUART.

IT AMUSED ME TO PLAY A ROLE. I WAS MYRD...



...AND "WISE OLD" MERLYN OF LEGEND...



...AND LATER, ON OTHERWORLD, THE OLD CHESS PLAYER.

YOU SMUG
SWINE. WHAT
GAVE YOU THE
RIGHT TO
USE US?

MY
POWER...

...AND, THE
THREAT NECROM
POSED TO MY
ENERGY MATRIX.

HE WOULD HAVE MISUSED
THE POWER HAD HE GAINED
CONTROL OF IT.



NO WORDS
ARE SPOKEN, AS
MEGGAN GRIPS
BRIAN'S HUGE
ENLARGED HAND...

...AND BEGINS TO
ABSORB THE EXCESS
MATRIX ENERGY
THAT BLOATS HIS
GIANT FORM.

AS BRIAN
SHRINKS BACK
TO HIS NORMAL
PROPORTIONS...



...MEGGAN
METABOLIZES
THE ENORMOUS
POWER...





...THEN DISCHARGES
IT-- AS A TIGHTLY
FOCUSED BEAM OF
DEVASTATING
FORCE--



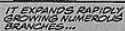
--INTO A SINGLE
SQUARE CENTIMETER
AT THE BASE OF THE
TOWER WALL.



ZOT



A MINUTE
CRACK
APPEARS.



IT EXPANDS RAPIDLY,
GROWING NUMEROUS
BRANCHES...

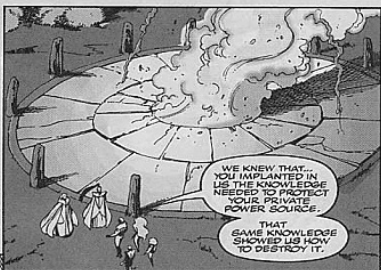


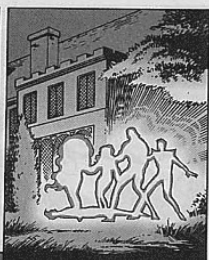
...THAT SPREAD INTO
A SPLINTERING WEB.

AND, ACROSS
EVERY PLANE
OF REALITY...

...THE TOWER--IN
ALL ITS DIVERSE
FORMS--

--DISINTEGRATES.







SNOW STORIES

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
MARK POWERS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Hey Terry,

"Air Apparent," the newest EXCALIBUR Special Edition was a visual smorgasbord. Ron Lim, exceptional new talent Brian Stelfreeze, Jackson Guice, Karl Story, Watt Simonson, etc., etc. Wow. And Scott Lobdell's story was very good. He managed to mix action, adventure and humor quite nicely into an entertaining finished product.

When's the next Special slated to appear?

Elvis Olsen
17650 Dawson Rd.
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

Happy to hear you enjoyed it, Elvis — all of the mail on the Special Edition was positive. As far as another Special, look for it in May — with a lot of the same creators, and a few extra surprises!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I've just finished EXCALIBUR's Special Edition, "Air Apparent." It was marvelous! Brian, Kurt, and Diana did a great job on Kurt in Chapter 2. Seeing shoppers in the mall treat Kurt like a celebrity even after he fought with a nuclear robot was a breath of fresh air. Any other "X" title would have had an angry mob shouting for mutant blood instead of a crowd of fans yelling compliments.

Could someone please clear up Brian's explanation of Aniwaker's cosmic level explosion not affecting Earth? Thanks.

Brock Harmon
108 Short Street
Ivel, KY 41642

Gez, Brock, you must mean when Brian thought, "Just as I theorized — the explosion took place on a cosmic level...while the minutia was unaffected. A perfectly sound scientific theory." Well...it's just like he said — perfectly sound. So what's to explain?

Dear Sword Strokes,

This is the first time I have written to an American Marvel publication, but the standard of EXCALIBUR is just so high that I had to. I have been a firm fan of the comic for a few years now. Marvel UK only manages to put out one super-hero title: THE COMPLETE SPIDER-MAN. I am proud of Marvel UK for their release of KNIGHTS OF PEN-DRAGON, but I was very disappointed when they cancelled the Punisher's weekly title in 1989, after cancelling such other UK titles as DEATH'S HEAD and MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS.

Thankfully though, there is the good of USA and the amazing American Marvel team. Did you know that EXCALIBUR is just about the only Marvel USA comic that is available here at local newsagents. It is more widely available than any other American comic.

Well, that's about it, except for a small mention to Damian Lee, EXCALIBUR's second biggest British fan. Please print my full address for anyone who wants a British Marvel-ite pen pal. A promised reply to everyone who writes.

Andrew Steel
13 Bain Avenue
Hempstead, NY
England YO6 2PZ

Thanks for the news about EXCALIBUR in Britain, Andrew. We sure hope you'll be able to answer all the letters you might receive!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Who do you think will take all the Bills or the Redskins? Just curious. By the way, the new Excalibur mushroom is...ahem...excuse me, it's...hee-hee...shicker...I don't know if I can...mwa-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!

Well, anyway, Alan Davis is doing a...I can't believe it's really a mushroom! wonderful job since his...hehl! return to the book. It's great to see...oh jeez! this book return to...sniff! its former glory.

I just wanted to...it really is a mushroom! I can't believe it!

Monkeys in the Jungle Studios
7202 Calumet
Amarillo, TX 79106

Well, by now the big game is a foregone conclusion, but the mushroom sure isn't...as we're sure you already noticed this issue!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I started buying EXCALIBUR about a year ago. I love the N-Men. Finally, Nightcrawler is getting some respect! I also like what you're doing with the good Captain. And by the way — I don't like the idea of a dragon and an alien having a physical relationship in my comic book!

So until Satsymy grows a beard, Make Mine Marvel!

Zachary Johnson
46-255 Apt. 800A Kahuipio St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

How about a unicorn and a griffin, Zachary?

Dear Sword Strokes,

I am writing this letter to compliment you on EXCALIBUR. It is the best comic around! You have the best art and the best characters. Also, Kitty, Phoenix, and Meggan are the most beautiful characters I have seen! Speaking of Phoenix, it is because of her that I found EXCALIBUR.

I have just finished issue #45 and I loved it! I especially liked the N-Men and was wondering if they will be appearing anymore with Excalibur.

Continue the great job on EXCALIBUR and until Widget is turned into scrap metal, Make Mine Marvel!

Ian Fountain
12031 Amherst Ct.
Plymouth, MI 48170

All of the letters we received on issue #45 praised the N-Men, Ian. Check out the new few...

Dear Sword Strokes,

I think EXCALIBUR is great! I have a lot

of comics, but EXCALIBUR and X-MEN are my favorites!

I would like to tell you how much I loved EXCALIBUR #45! I liked it because of the N-Men. I think they deserve their own comic.

I would like to see more of Widget. He is my favorite character! And I really hope Meggan finds out more about herself.

Until Widget explodes, Make Mine Marvel!

Colin Cherry
HC 859360 Highland Rd.
Eagle River, AK 99577

Although the N-Men were incredibly popular, Colin, they will not be regular characters in EXCALIBUR. We think it's about time, now that nearly all the loose threads have been wrapped up, to focus on the team and their struggles. We don't think you'll be disappointed!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I LOVED THE N-MEN!

Seriously, I have never written to a comic book before, but after issue #45, I just had to write and tell you what I thought. This has to be one of the best and funniest issues yet (next to issue #14). The art was superb as usual — thank goodness Alan's back! The script was both funny and gripping.

Nightcrawler has always been my favorite character in any comic book, and I have liked the Technet since I first saw them in the EXCALIBUR Special. When you put them both together, I fell in love with the concept! Nightcrawler looks hilarious with that scap! I have a few questions for you:

1. Are we going to be seeing more of the N-Men (besides these next few issues)?
2. Can anybody in the Technet talk besides Turbo, Ferro2 and Chinnadot?
3. Does anybody in this group have above a 2nd grade education?
4. Is Ringtoss male or female?
5. Is there a chance of an N-Men Limited Series?

Thanks for your time.

Chris Blanchard
1047 Broadway
Chula Vista, CA

1. Check out the answer above, Chris.
2. Numbers can talk, as well as Snee and Gatecrasher, members of Technet who left Earth in issue #42.
3. They've all come from other dimensions/planets! Talk about culture shock!
4. Does it matter?
5. Not in the near future. Sorry!

Dear Sword Strokes,

At last the mysterious "world through the bathroom (wasn't it originally a cellar door)" sub-plot has been tied with the rest of reality (or has it?). How you kept the secret for 45 issues, I don't know. Alan, you really are a first-class story-teller — your artwork is so clear and well-defined, working with Mark as well as it did with Paul. Thankfully, you kept the book's humor just right so that EXCALIBUR remains funny but not inept. Keep Meggan a sweet, innocent child; she really is one-of-a-kind.

Until Brian cuts his hair a bit shorter, Make Mine Marvel.

Nick Gulliver
4 Wood End
Crowthorne, Berkshire
England

The bathroom certainly has gotten a lot of attention, lately. Check out the next letter, Nick!

Dear Sword Strokes,

In regards to Aaron Leopold's letter in issue #45, ARE YOU NUTS?
EXCALIBUR is one of the best titles Marvel has! Sure, some of the stories are a little unbelievable, but come on! They're so funny! The Technet is priceless! The characters' strengths and weaknesses mesh in a way I haven't seen since X-MEN.

So until Kitty leaves Excalibur, Make Mine Marvel!

James Elliott
2836C 11th Ave. S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
Canada T2A 1G4

Everyone's entitled to an opinion, James! (But almost every letter-writer feels the way you do about this book!)

Dear Terry and Mark,

Oh yeah! The N-Men have arrived! It's about time you gave Nightcrawler more recognition. I'd like to see three things in his future:

1. The new leader of Excalibur.
2. A romance.
3. A spotlight issue on him, perhaps discussing his relationship with Mystique... please!

On a different note, everybody else in the book sees action except Excalibur. Enough with the character depth for now and let's kick some butt!

Otherwise, I'm extremely impressed with everything — especially Mr. Davis's drawings. Wunderbar! Until the N-Men have crumpets and tea for lunch, Make Mine Marvel!

Kenn Westman
809 Boxwood Ct.
Eureka, TX 76039

Is Necrom and the Anti-Phoenix enough of a "tigh" for you, Kenn? Hop so!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I'm a big fan of EXCALIBUR, ever since I first saw them on their Marvel Trading Cards team picture. That's when I started collecting the comics. I'm writing for the first time, so I don't know what to say. Actually, I have a question that I hope you can answer: Who is Kylon?

Amand Alberto
139 Watkins St.
Philadelph, PA 19148

We think issue #46 answered your question better than we could have, Amand!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Oh, wow! Is that valiant upholding of the Comics Code, or what? Kurt should get a CCA medal. Even though he was fighting for his life and jumping all over page 8 in issue #46, that loosely-tucked towel stayed right in

place. Way to go, Kurt! Death before de-towel-ing! I'm impressed.

That makes twice that a new guy has moved into the lighthouse and trashed the toilet, though I hope this isn't going to be a recurring theme. I also hope they had the good sense to install a few extras while remodeling.

Things have been very interesting lately. I can't wait 'til everyone gets back together. Should be good. Meanwhile, what's Colin's mutant talent? And what's Kitty been up to that day?

Sharla Hardy
769 M St.
Davis, CA 95616

And your questions have been answered before we could even print your letter, Sharla!

Dear Sword Strokes,

How do you determine who will do the art or write for EXCALIBUR?

Until Excalibur's lighthouse goes condo, Make Mine Marvel!

James Scheibel
893 Malibu Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Good question, James. It's the job of the editor to find the creative people he or she thinks would be best for each book. Lots of things go into making a decision, including who is available and what style would best fit the book. Such decisions certainly aren't always easy, but everyone seems to agree on one thing — Alan Davis has done a terrific job bringing back the magic to EXCALIBUR!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Re: EXCALIBUR #46

Reading this issue gave me mixed emotions. As thrilling as the art and revelation of Colin the Barbarian is, they still couldn't make up for a sense of loss that came at the resolution of an outstanding plot-line. I am, of course, referring to Meggan's newfound knowledge of her true form. I guess that all things must come to an end.

As a die-hard Nightcrawler fan I must profusely thank Mr. Davis for the latest issues that have put Kurt in the spotlight. Once again, we humble readers are seeing Kurt's depth as a character and his blitheness of spirit (even with a broken leg!)

Brook Harmon
108 Short St.
N.Y., NY 10462

Maybe we shouldn't be reminding you of this, Brook, but Meggan's search is far from over. Yes, she has one small piece of the puzzle, but she still knows nothing about where she is from or her parents. So don't worry — we've left some mysteries unsolved!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I guess I'll start my letter the same way everyone else starts their letters (sigh)... I REALLY LOVED EXCALIBUR #46!!! It was probably one of the best EXCALIBUR comics I've seen since the first ten issues. I've been following EXCALIBUR ever since issue #1. But, after a couple of issues of "The Cross-Time Caper," I was a little bored and confused. I couldn't keep track of all those alternate realities and alternate personalities.

This issue, though, really made sense out of the others. It made some sense of past occurrences, tying them into the current story. I also really enjoyed another appearance of the Neuri. I thought they were really cool in WOLVERINE: BLOODLUST.

Okay, I have some questions:

1. Are you ever going to have the real X-Men in this comic? I mean, half the team originated in the X-Men, so I think you could spare an appearance.

2. Are you ever going to have any new members join?

3. Are you going to give up this alternate dimension deal? I hope so.

4. Has Nightcrawler ever jumped from a skyscraper and teleported a second before he hit the ground? That would be cool...

So until Captain Britain gets the Captain Universe powers and saves the whole world from destruction, Make Mine Marvel!

Jim Wooldridge

(Address withheld upon request)

Okay, we have some answers, Jim!

1. The real X-Men were in the comic! Okay, maybe not in person, but the two teams have talked with each other via video screen and they are in contact. Check out issue #52 for a face-to-face meeting between Excalibur and key members of the X-Men!

Dear Terry and Mark,

I just wanted to write and let you know how much I've enjoyed the last several months of EXCALIBUR. It's amazing how Alan Davis has managed to tie up the numerous plot threads left dangling over the past few years, all the while keeping the stories fresh and entertaining each month. In my opinion, EXCALIBUR has surpassed the X-MEN and SPIDER-MAN as Marvel's hottest book.

In addition to the stories, Alan Davis and Mark Farmer have proven to be the most well-matched penciler/inker team since Byrne/Austin way back when. Alan draws such life-like people that I start to forget that these characters are fictional! Usually, no matter how well-drawn a character is, he or she is so idealized by the artist that the character begins to appear generic. Not so in Alan's work! His versions of Brian, Meggan, Rachel, Kurt, Kitty, and even Widget are simultaneously heroic-looking and individualized. I mean, Kitty actually looks like a young woman, rather than the kid or fully-grown adult she usually appears as. And, of course, Mark maintains these qualities—in fact, he enhances them. Even Glynis Oliver's colors stand out as superior work. I think that she's the best colorist in the business!

Oh well, that's enough unrestrained flattery for now. One thing I would like to see in the coming month, however, is an appearance by one of the "alternate realities" Excalibur teams.

Robin Locksley
4 Hyannis Dr.
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Our esteemed creative team sincerely appreciates your praise, Robin. In this letters page, flattery will get you everywhere! And as for Excalibur teams from alternate realities...

NEXT ISSUE: As Excalibur rallies around the comatose Phoenix, dinosaurs run rampant through Britain...and wait 'til you see who arrives to restrain them!